

REMARKS

This Amendment is responsive to the Office Action dated April 29, 2005. Claims 1-17 were pending in the application. In the Office Action, claims 1-17 were rejected. In this Amendment, claims 1, 5, 9, 10 and 17 were amended. Claims 1-17 thus remain for consideration.

Applicant submits that claims 1-17 are in condition for allowance and requests withdrawal of the rejections in light of the following remarks.

Objections to the Drawings

The drawings were objected to because the drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims.

Figure 5 has been amended to show the free end of the safety catch that passes through the slot to extend outwardly beyond the depth of the slot in the second housing. A replacement drawing showing these changes is attached to this amendment.

Objections to the Specification

The specification was objected to because informalities.

The specification has been amended; therefore, the objection to the specification should be removed.

Objections to the Claims

Claim 1 was objected to because of informalities.

Claim 1 has been amended, as suggested by the Examiner; therefore, the above objection to the claims should be removed.

§ 103 Rejections

Claims 1-17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Keller (USPN 1,807,293) in view of Levy (US Patent Number 5,008,984).

Applicant submits that the independent claims (claims 1 and 10) are patentable over Keller and Levy – either taken alone or in combination.

Applicant's invention as recited in the independent claims (claims 1 and 10) is directed toward a jewelry clasp. For example, independent claim 1 specifies that the jewelry clasp comprises a first housing, a second housing, a safety catch having one end pivotally mounted to the first housing, a protuberance extending outwardly from the other end of the safety catch and a slot for receiving the protuberance. Claim 1 further specifies that the protuberance has a free end wherein the free end of the protuberance enters the slot through either the first or second external surfaces of the second housing. Supporting disclosure for Applicant's protuberance can be found throughout the specification. (See, e.g., Page 7, lines 16-21).

Keller and Levy do not disclose a protuberance that enters a slot through either the first or second external surfaces of the second housing.

Keller discloses a jewelry fastener that comprises a keeper 7 that is adapted to pass through an opening 8. (See Keller, Col.2, lines 62-76). Keller does not teach or suggest a keeper that may enter an opening on either side of the fastener. As shown in

Keller the arm 6 is attached to a female member at the female member's outer edge.

When the arm is placed in a locked position, the keeper 7 may only engage with the opening 8. It is not possible for the keeper to engage with an opening that is on the opposite side of the female member body (i.e., an opening that is opposite to opening 8).

Levy discloses a jewelry closure that comprises a clip 18 attached to the outer casing of a female cylindrical casing 4 at hinge 20. The clip has a tip 20 that can be inserted into protrusion 24. (See Levy, Col. 2, lines 46-64). Levy, however, does not teach or suggest a tip that may enter a protrusion from either side of the closure (i.e., a protrusion that is opposite protrusion 24).

Since Keller and Levy does not disclose a protuberance that enters a slot through either the first or second external surfaces of the second housing, Applicant believes that independent claims 1 and 10 are patentable over Keller and Levy – taken either alone or in combination – on at least this basis.

Claims 2-9 depend on claim 1. Since claim 1 is believed to be patentable over Keller and Levy, claims 2-9 are believed to be patentable over Keller and Levy on the basis of their dependency on claim 1.

Claims 11-17 depend on claim 10. Since claim 10 is believed to be patentable over Keller and Levy, claims 11-17 are believed to be patentable over Keller and Levy on the basis of their dependency on claim 10.

CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully submits that all of the claims now pending in the application are in condition for allowance, which action is earnestly solicited.

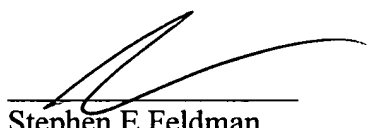
If any issues remain, or if the Examiner has any further suggestions, he/she is invited to call the undersigned at the telephone number provided below.

Enclosed is check in the amount of \$225.00 covering a two-month extension of time.

The Examiner is hereby authorized to charge any insufficient fees or credit any overpayment associated with the above-identified application to Deposit Account No. 06-0515.

Respectfully submitted,
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